

**Antonia Hover**

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**From:** Ellen Plendl  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 11, 2023 3:35 PM  
**To:** Consumer Correspondence  
**Subject:** Docket No. 20210015  
**Attachments:** FW FPL rate increase's; Consumer Inquiry - Florida Power & Light Company

See attached customer correspondence and reply for Docket No. 20210015

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Governor's Office of Citizen Services <EOGCitizenServices@eog.myflorida.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 7, 2023 3:20 PM  
**To:** EOG-Referral  
**Subject:** FW: FPL rate increase's  
**Attachments:** DeSantis.doc

Please find attached email received by the Governor's Office of Citizen Services. This email is forwarded to your office for review and any response or action appropriate.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Martha Lynn  
Office of Citizen Services  
Executive Office of the Governor

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**From:** Howard Hanson <hhanson2020@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2023 9:31 AM  
**To:** GovernorRon.DeSantis@eog.myflorida.com  
**Subject:** FPL rate increase's

Constituent message:

1. **Name**  
Howard Hanson
2. **Email Address**  
[hhanson2020@yahoo.com](mailto:hhanson2020@yahoo.com)
3. **Phone Number**  
715-602-3112
4. **Subject**  
FPL rate increase's
5. **Message**  
Dear Governor DeSantis,  
First of all, I would like to express my gratitude for the excellent job you have been doing in Florida. Your leadership has been instrumental in making our state a great place to live and do business. 1) I have enclosed a letter regarding FPL rate increase(s) along with suggested solutions. 2) I also enclosed a copy of an article I plan on sending to the appropriate newspapers. Thank you, Howard Hanson
6. **Attach file (optional)**  
[DeSantis.doc](#)
7. **User IP Address**  
195.234.124.26
8. **Date Submitted**  
20/03/2023
9. **Time Submitted**  
9:31:25 am, EDT

This message was sent from <https://www.flgov.com>.

Please note that under Florida law correspondence sent to the Governor's Office, which is not confidential or exempt pursuant to chapter 119 of the Florida Statutes, is a public record made available upon request.

March 20, 2023

Dear Governor DeSantis,

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude for the excellent job you have been doing in Florida. Your leadership has been instrumental in making our state a great place to live and do business.

I am writing to you today to address an important issue that concerns me deeply. As a former resident of Wisconsin and now a resident of Florida, I have been a consultant on energy efficiency for many years. Recently, I sent a complaint to FPL regarding my electric bill, which has increased by 800% due to a malfunctioning electric meter or incorrect billing. I know how to use electricity effectively and efficiently, and my bill used to be just \$9.96 per month with my 7200 watts of solar power.

This issue is not just affecting me but also an estimated 360,000 FPL customers whose bills increased in 2022 after the utility's new \$25 minimum base bill took effect. This has resulted in a \$9 million annual increase. Instead of targeting a few low-energy users, a \$2.25 increase for all 4 million customers would have been fairer.

To address this issue, I propose the following solutions:

1. Implement a State Demand Side Management program that promotes energy efficiency and makes economic sense for consumers. This program should be implemented by contractors and sales, not state-funded like Wisconsin's Focus on Energy program.
2. Establish the same base rate (meter cost) across all FPL customers and a higher base rate for users who consume more energy. Additionally, peak demand rates should apply to commercial customers and customers installing on-demand EV charging stations.
3. Prohibit utilities from offering solar, energy-efficient products, or energy storage devices, as they are monopolies and should not offer products that the commercial sector can provide.
4. Conduct a forensic audit of utilities' expenses, overhead, and adjust their return on investment to investors based on the changing interest rate.
5. Implement a Nationwide infrastructure rebuild called "Distributed Power" when you become the President of the United States. Our existing electrical power distribution system is outdated and makes America vulnerable, not only because of the lack of foresight in promoting EVs but also from physical attacks.

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to discussing these issues with you further.

Sincerely,

Howard H. Hanson Jr.  
26071 Seminole Lakes Blvd  
Punta Gorda FL 33955  
715-602-3112

### **Article for the paper**

Get ready to charge up, because electric vehicles (EVs) are here to stay! With the rising popularity of these eco-friendly cars, there's a lot of buzz around home charging systems and how they work. These systems are rated in kilowatts (KW), with 3.3 KW or 6.6 KW being the most common. They require a dedicated 40-amp 240-volt breaker, which is ironically the same size as a 7 KW solar system on your roof.

While solar energy is also a great way to create a greener Earth and cleaner air, there's a catch. Utility companies penalize customers who make and use less energy, which doesn't make any economic sense. Customers who have installed solar have to pay a higher base charge to have electricity to their home than someone who doesn't have solar. On the other hand, EVs consume energy at extreme levels, especially during peak demand times, so their monthly base charge is often less. The logic from the utility standpoint is that the total base charge to create, generate, and distribute electricity has a cost per KW to create and distribute.

However, this logic is flawed, and it's been going on for over 60 years. Utilities make money by selling electricity, not by finding ways to reduce it. They want to find more ways for the customer to use more of their product, find more ways to charge for their product, increase their cost for their product, and eliminate competition that may have a better, less expensive way to provide the same or better product. Green Energy isn't just about generating electricity with storage devices like EVs. In fact, currently, EVs are just storage devices and are not very earth-friendly or clean-air friendly.

Charging stations are necessary for EVs to travel long distances without worrying about running out of charge. Public charging stations should be installed in convenient locations such as parking lots, rest stops, and shopping centers. As renewable energy sources such as solar and wind become more prevalent, energy storage systems are needed to store excess energy generated during peak production.

While there are many positive aspects to EVs, there are also some potential drawbacks that may make them less desirable for some consumers. For example, EV owners are not paying their fair share of road taxes and other infrastructure costs because they do not pay gasoline taxes, which are a significant source of revenue for many states and are often used to fund road maintenance and construction.

Furthermore, switching from fossil fuel to earth-polluting storage systems will only transfer the Green Earth problem. Burning fossil fuels release carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, which in turn trap heat in our atmosphere. Green Technologies aren't so green and create massive damages to earth and all life on earth. Mining and processing of lithium, however, turns out to be far more environmentally harmful. Research shows that this mining depletes water reserves, harms soil, and contaminates the air. The bottom line is that Lithium-ion batteries emit more CO<sub>2</sub> than fossil fuel vehicles, but their use in powering electric vehicles has far greater environmental benefits than their mining and manufacturing. And then there's the problem of discarding Lithium-ion batteries and wind generation blades.

Overall, the infrastructure costs of EVs are complex issues that require careful consideration. Utilities are regulated monopolies, and their payment systems have hardly changed in a hundred years. Public regulators and advocates are often outspent by utilities, which can hire high-powered attorneys and engineers to argue their case, with these fees directly included on our utility bills. In fact, in some cases, the more utilities spend on physical infrastructure, the more profit they stand to make, and the higher the base cost to have electric service. It's important to weigh the pros and cons and consider all aspects before jumping on the EV bandwagon.

## Antonia Hover

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**From:** Shonna McCray  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 11, 2023 3:32 PM  
**To:** 'hhanson2020@yahoo.com'  
**Cc:** Ellen Plendl  
**Subject:** Consumer Inquiry - Florida Power & Light Company

Mr. Howard H. Hanson Jr.  
[hhanson2020@yahoo.com](mailto:hhanson2020@yahoo.com)

RE: FPSC Inquiry 1419646C

Dear Mr. Hanson:

The Governor's office forwarded a copy of your email regarding Florida Power & Light Company (FPL) and the minimum bill charge to the Florida Public Service Commission (FPSC). The FPSC regulates investor-owned electric, and natural gas utilities throughout the state, and investor-owned water and wastewater utilities in those counties which have opted to transfer jurisdiction to the FPSC. The FPSC has authority in the telephone industry which is limited to the Lifeline Assistance Program, Florida Relay Service, and pay telephone service. We appreciate the opportunity to respond directly to you.

Under Rule 25-6.065, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), net metering is defined as “a metering and billing methodology whereby customer-owned renewable generation is allowed to offset the customer’s electricity consumption on-site.” The rule states that “[d]uring any billing cycle, excess customer-owned renewable generation delivered to the investor-owned utility’s electric grid **shall** be credited to the customer’s energy consumption for the next month’s billing cycle” (Rule 25-6.065(8)(e), F.A.C., emphasis added). Further, excess energy credits produced by the customer “**shall** accumulate and be used to offset the customer’s energy usage in subsequent months” (Rule 25-6.065(8)(f), F.A.C., emphasis added).

The net metering rule requires utilities to offset customer energy consumption during each billing cycle with excess renewable energy credits accumulated by that customer. For some customers, the requirement on the utility to offset the customers’ energy consumption with accumulated credits may result in a monthly bill that falls below \$25. If that is the case, the new minimum monthly bill charge will be applied to bring the monthly bill up to \$25. Some customers have suggested that the utility only offset consumption to the point that they stay at or above a \$25 monthly bill, thereby reserving the credits that would bring them below the minimum bill. However, the net metering rule does not provide the utility with discretion to offset “some” of the customer’s energy consumption in order to not go below \$25. The utility is required to apply energy credits to the customer’s consumption until either the credits or the consumption reach zero.

The Florida Public Service Commission approved Florida Power & Light Company’s (FPL) general base rate settlement agreement in Order No. PSC-2021-0446-S-EI, issued on December 2, 2021, in Docket No. 20210015-EI. The settlement agreement was entered into by FPL and various parties representing consumers, including the Office of the Public Counsel (OPC) who advocates on behalf of Florida consumers. The settlement agreement includes numerous provisions with regards to FPL’s base rates through the end of 2025.

FPL’s net metering program will continue to function as it always has. Credits for kWhs delivered to the grid, compared to the kWhs taken from the grid will be calculated as they have been historically. The only change is that customers who have a bill under \$25 after net metering in any given month will now receive the minimum bill of \$25. Commission staff has confirmed that FPL continues to implement net metering practices pursuant to the requirements of the net metering rule.

FPL explained that the minimum bill provision was included in the settlement agreement to ensure that all residential and general service non-demand customers contribute towards fixed costs of maintaining the electric system, costs which exist as a result of serving even limited amounts of energy to customers. The Commission approved the settlement agreement as being in the public interest when taken as a whole, and providing a comprehensive and balanced resolution to FPL's original petition for a base rate increase that provides rate stability for FPL's customers.

We have added your concerns to our files as a protest to FPL's Rate Case, Docket 20210015.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Ellen Plendl at 1-800-342-3552.

Sincerely,

Shonna McCray  
Regulatory Program Administrator  
Florida Public Service Commission